

VOLUNTEER HARFORD COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Open Doors Career Center, Inc. is very fortunate to have many volunteers assist us in a variety of ways. While we value all of our volunteers, there is one in particular who is a true gem. Gail Beard, the President of the Board of Directors of Open Doors, is a valuable, inspirational and motivating leader.

Gail became a board member of Open Doors in 2006, and immediately began volunteering in any way she could. In 2009, when statewide funding was eliminated for the Displaced Homemaker Program, Gail insisted we continue serving those clients. She began volunteering her time as a counselor to make that possible. Every week she spends at least one full day meeting with clients, assisting with resume writing and job searches and providing life skill counseling. She also began volunteering in the REACH program, providing life and job skills classes to women involved in the criminal justice system, including those incarcerated.

In January 2010, Gail was elected as the President of the Board of Directors of Open Doors. She not only embraced this role, but has continued her other volunteer duties at Open Doors as well. Gail provided support, inspiration, expertise and motivation to the staff, members of the Board of Directors and our clients. She is always upbeat, energetic, full of wonderful ideas and readily available to assist our organization in its mission.

Gail does fundraising, letter writing, program analysis and grant reviews in addition to meeting individually with clients both in the office and at the detention center. She is truly the "wind beneath our wings", an asset to our community and in inspiration to us all.

Open Doors Career Center, Inc. is a nonprofit community based agency established in 1979 by the Harford County Commission for Women and Harford Community College. Its mission is to empower individuals in need of life and employment skills by providing opportunities, resources, and inspiration to encourage them to discover the keys to their success.

To achieve our mission, Open Doors operates four programs all with the common goal of helping our clients achieve self sufficiency. We serve displaced homemakers, pregnant and parenting teens, women involved in the criminal justice program and senior citizens over the age of 55.

We are in need of volunteers to provide mentoring, job development, coaching and also to assist with mailings. To join us as a volunteer please call 410-638-0187 or visit the website at www.opendoorssc.org.



**To find out how you can volunteer for
Open Doors Career Center
text "volunteer" to 70701
www.volunteerharford.org**



David R. Craig
Harford County Executive
Elizabeth S. Hendrix
Director, Dept. of Community Services

Harford County Department of
Community Services
Volunteer Harford
410-638-4444
volunteer@volunteerharford.org
www.volunteerharford.org